



WILMINGTON

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Wilmington is a suburban industrial town occupying 17.2 square miles of the watershed of the Ipswich River. The town was part of an unstable Colonial frontier during Queen Ann's War. The community's early agricultural economy broadened to include a sawmill established in 1702 by Daniel Snow. Formed as an independent town in 1730, Wilmington has retained a high proportion of 18th century houses. The Baldwin apple is supposed to have been discovered in Wilmington in the 1790's on Butters Farm and after some bitter disputes with other communities over whether that was the case, a bronze plaque duly commemorates the discovery. The Middlesex Canal was completed in Wilmington in the early 19th century and residents were able to ship their produce to market. The largest shipments were of hops, since Wilmington became one of the largest producers of hops in the state, growing 8,200 tons of hops worth \$2.2 million by 1837.

An early railroad corridor connected Wilmington to Boston and Lowell in 1835 and to Andover in 1836 and trolley lines were established in the late 19th century. The town had a primarily agricultural economy, with residents growing fruit, vegetables and cranberries, but also had a number of slaughterhouses. The major industry in Wilmington, however, was the Perry, Cutler and Company tannery. Since 1940 the population more than quadrupled with particular growth between 1950 and 1965 after the completion of Route 128. Although the town remained principally a farming community during the 18th, 19th and early 20th century, producing milk and eggs, suburban residential development has made a major impact on Wilmington.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Andover on the north; North Reading and Reading on the east; Woburn on the south; and Burlington, Billerica, and Tewksbury on the west. Wilmington is 11 miles southeast of Lowell, 15 miles north of Boston, and 224 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 17.21 sq. miles

Land Area: 17.14 sq. miles

Population: 17,651

Density: 1,030 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Reading Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.5°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.0°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Wilmington

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 658-3311

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1730

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	11,717		
Democrats	3,863	33.0	%
Republicans	1,208	10.3	%
Other parties	3	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	6,643	56.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Wilmington town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	21,363	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	21,363	100.0
Male.....	10,580	49.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	203	1.0
Female.....	10,783	50.5	Mexican.....	36	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,715	8.0	Puerto Rican.....	64	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,730	8.1	Cuban.....	3	-
10 to 14 years.....	1,604	7.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	100	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	1,243	5.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	21,160	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	875	4.1	White alone.....	20,463	95.8
25 to 34 years.....	2,941	13.8	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	4,211	19.7	Total population.....	21,363	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,864	13.4	In households.....	21,109	98.8
55 to 59 years.....	1,044	4.9	Householder.....	7,027	32.9
60 to 64 years.....	825	3.9	Spouse.....	4,891	22.9
65 to 74 years.....	1,284	6.0	Child.....	7,590	35.5
75 to 84 years.....	745	3.5	Own child under 18 years.....	5,527	25.9
85 years and over.....	282	1.3	Other relatives.....	1,007	4.7
Median age (years).....	36.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	324	1.5
18 years and over.....	15,463	72.4	Nonrelatives.....	594	2.8
Male.....	7,498	35.1	Unmarried partner.....	235	1.1
Female.....	7,965	37.3	In group quarters.....	254	1.2
21 years and over.....	14,909	69.8	Institutionalized population.....	247	1.2
62 years and over.....	2,761	12.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	7	-
65 years and over.....	2,311	10.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	935	4.4	Total households.....	7,027	100.0
Female.....	1,376	6.4	Family households (families).....	5,777	82.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,914	41.5
One race.....	21,205	99.3	Married-couple family.....	4,891	69.6
White.....	20,575	96.3	With own children under 18 years.....	2,550	36.3
Black or African American.....	88	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	686	9.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	17	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	298	4.2
Asian.....	494	2.0	Nonfamily households.....	1,250	17.8
Asian Indian.....	133	0.6	Householder living alone.....	985	14.0
Chinese.....	155	0.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	414	5.9
Filipino.....	13	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,127	44.5
Japanese.....	15	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,519	21.6
Korean.....	48	0.2	Average household size.....	3.00	(X)
Vietnamese.....	47	0.2	Average family size.....	3.33	(X)
Other Asian ¹	23	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	7,158	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	7,027	98.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	131	1.8
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	17	0.2
Some other race.....	90	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.2	(X)
Two or more races.....	158	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.7	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	7,027	100.0
White.....	20,724	97.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,348	90.3
Black or African American.....	130	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	679	9.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	69	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.09	(X)
Asian.....	494	2.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.23	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	-			
Some other race.....	120	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State	85
Conventional Federal	0

Rental Assistance (DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP)	0
Federal (Section 8)	8



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Wilmington is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate Route 93 running N-S; State Route 38, which connects up with State Route 128, the inner belt around Boston; State Route 62, which leads to U.S. Route 3; and State Route 129.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available on the Lowell Line from Wilmington Station (travel time: 28-32 min.; 6 MBTA parking spaces) and Woburn (24-26 min.; 195 spaces), and on the Haverhill Line from Reading Depot (28-31 min.; 113 spaces) and North Wilmington Station (37-40 min.; 20 spaces). Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Wilmington is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). There is no fixed route service, but the MBTA provides The RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

L.G. Hanscom Field, a joint civil-military airport, is located in Bedford. A Reliever Airport with Commercial Service (CR), it has a 5,106' asphalt runway and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

Recreation Department

(Supplied by community 1993)

Recreation Department

Town Hall

121 Glen Road

Wilmington, MA 01887

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Wilmington Woods Nursing Care Center

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.